



Supervisor

Marina Dimitrijevic

Milwaukee County

Board of Supervisors

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A Message from Marina

November 2017

Dear Neighbors,

Winter is right around the corner, and I hope you will join me in welcoming the season with good cheer and optimism. Looking forward into next year, the Milwaukee County Board has adopted the county budget for 2018. I encourage you to review the Adopted Budget, and take a look Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb's [op-ed](#) for some perspective. I am excited to announce that our budget eliminates the proposed \$30 increase to the Vehicle Registration Fee, and gives control to department heads to protect the services we all rely on.

On November 2nd, Supervisor Jason Haas (District 14) and I held a town hall event at South Shore Pavilion. It was a great opportunity to meet many of our neighbors and hear your thoughts on the budget. Because of your valuable input, we crafted a better budget than what was proposed by the County Executive. On the third page you will find details about my contributions to the 2018 budget and to Milwaukee County.

I look forward to gathering together with you and other neighbors during the coming months and discussing with you how to improve our district and Milwaukee County. Until then, please feel free to call or email my office with your thoughts and concerns. I always appreciate hearing from you and value the feedback you provide.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic
Milwaukee County Board, District 7

SAVE THE DATE:

November 11: Veterans Day

November 16: Annual Layton Boulevard West Neighborhood Gathering ([RSVP here](#))

November 16: Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival Kick-Off at Pere Marquette Park

November 18: Naughty or Nice Holiday Floral Show at Mitchell Park Domes

December 2-3, 9-10, & 16-17: Breakfast with Santa at Milwaukee County Zoo



Milwaukee County News Updates

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Adopts 2018 Budget

Board Listens to Voters and Eliminates Abele's Proposal to Double the Wheel Tax to \$60



The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted the 2018 Milwaukee County budget on November 8, 2017 on a vote of 16-2 after adopting several amendments to County Executive Chris Abele's Recommended Budget, including an elimination of Abele's wheel tax increase to \$60.

"Today the County Board adopted a balanced budget that avoids an increase in the wheel tax and preserves services for our citizens, and still gives the County Executive about 98% of what he asked for. County Executive Abele proposed a budget that was out of balance, and built around proposal to double the wheel tax – a proposal that voters rejected. Supervisors have listened to the people of Milwaukee County, who said "No" to the wheel tax increase. Supervisors found compromise, and crafted a responsible budget that spends millions less than Abele wanted to spend, borrows less, uses less of the county's savings, and taxes homeowners less than Abele proposed," said County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.

The 2018 Milwaukee County Adopted Budget includes several amendments authored by Sup. Dimitrijevic to County Executive's proposal, including a restoration of the \$200,000 that Abele cut from senior centers, new funding to bring awareness to the problem of sex trafficking, a plan to reduce evictions in Milwaukee County, pilot programs for lead abatement and AODA treatment in the House of Corrections (HOC), funds for youth job training, and \$1.5 million to a contingency fund for emergency spending, among others.

Supervisors adopted an amendment (16-2, Alexander, Dimitrijevic) by Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. that eliminates Abele's proposal to double the wheel tax to \$60, which was rejected by 72% of voters in April.

Lipscomb's amendment founds savings from a variety of methods, including an across the board reduction in departmental budgets of .75%, for a savings of \$3.75 million, a rejection of about half of Abele's request for new positions, saving over \$1 million, and by delaying certain road projects that Abele's own appointees to the Capital Improvement Committee did not recommend.

The 2018 Adopted Budget calls for a property tax levy of \$292,828,329, which is \$1,187,551 less than what County Executive Abele proposed, for a total expenditure of \$1,148,961,486, or \$16,372,631 less than what the County Executive proposed.



Milwaukee County News Updates

Supervisor Dimitrijevic's Amendments in 2018 Budget

Eviction/HOMES Project

On October 26, 2017 the Finance and Audit Committee unanimously approved an innovative plan, titled Housing Opportunities and Minimizing Evictions for Stabilizations (HOMES), to reduce the amount of evictions in Milwaukee County, introduced by Supervisor Dimitrijevic.

"Today we took a major step in the direction of keeping families in their homes and preventing homelessness in our community. We all know about the statistics regarding inequality - now is the time for action. Thank you to the Finance Committee for your leadership in funding a solution to end evictions and stabilize housing, which is a human right," said Supervisor Dimitrijevic, the author of the HOMES plan.

HOMES works in collaboration with Milwaukee County Department of Housing, Sheriff's Office, Treasures' Office and community partners. A housing stabilization assistant position has been created within the county. The assistant is tasked with mediating relationships between tenants and landlords, and coordinating a new housing stabilization fund dedicated to help families facing eviction to stay in their homes with emergency assistance funding.

The HOMES program also adds funding to the successful Eviction Defense Program led by Legal Action Wisconsin. This will offer families legal representation in court which will lead to more positive outcomes. It was adopted by the board on November 6th.

Restoring Full Amount of Cuts to our Senior Centers

The Finance Committee adopted (5-1) an amendment by Supervisors Steve F. Taylor and Marina Dimitrijevic, on October 26, which will restore \$200,000 to be used for senior center operations across Milwaukee County. The amendment was unanimously adopted by the board on November 6th.

"Thank you to the Finance Committee and the County Board for approving funding to reverse the County Executive's cuts to senior centers. Budgets are statements of our community priorities and our amendment provides additional resources to the Department on Aging to keep our senior centers open five days a week, all year long. We must continue to ensure that Milwaukee County is a place where our older adults can age in place with every resource they need and deserve to do so," said Supervisor Dimitrijevic, who previously served on the Commission on Aging for eight years.

The amendment calls for the Department on Aging to provide the County Board with a report on the possibility and cost of providing senior center programming with county employees or another contractor other than Interfaith, the current operator. Any plan or contract for senior center programming must require that senior centers are open five days a week, 52 weeks a year.

Supervisors Dimitrijevic and Taylor introduced their amendment in response to the County Executive's budget proposal, which called for \$200,000 worth of cuts to the Department on Aging and its senior centers.

Pay-to-Park in Our Parks Amendment

Also included in the 2018 Budget, is an amendment authored by Supervisor Dimitrijevic to avoid **the defacing of our lakefronts with parking meters**. A workgroup comprised of representatives from the Parks department, County Board, County Executive, Department of Administrative Services, and Parks business partners will convene to enforce the requirement that businesses operating in Milwaukee County pay fair market prices for parking. It will also explore options to charge non-county residents for parking. Dimitrijevic's amendment also demands that any pay-to-park program proposal must be presented to the County Board for approval and include a public hearing.

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Marina in the Community



Above: Supervisor Dimitrijevic giving a presentation on the County Executive's Proposed Budget at her joint townhall with Supervisor Haas of 14th District at South Shore Pavilion.



Above: Supervisor Dimitrijevic and Interim Sheriff Schmidt testifying in front of Finance and Audit Committee in support of Supervisor Dimitrijevic's HOMES/Eviction Amendment.

Marina in the Community



Top Left: Supervisors Dimitrijevic, Nicholson, and Taylor celebrating modern art at the Art Museum's: Circle Preview Celebration for Degas to Picasso. **Top Right:** Sup. Dimitrijevic with municipal judges JoAnn Eiring and Derek Mosley after they addressed the county board about the importance of organ donation. Please visit: [DonateLifeWisconsin.org](https://www.donatelife.wisconsin.org) **Bottom:** Supervisor Dimitrijevic and County Board with the Time of the Month Club. Do not forget to donate feminine hygiene products and socks to local homeless shelters!



Milwaukee County Free Days

Enjoy **FREE** admission to Milwaukee County attractions!



Free the first Thursday of every month

Free for *all* visitors on the first Thursday of every month!

Visit the [museum web site](#) for additional information.



Thank You Thursday from 9:00 a.m - 8:00 p.m.

Kohl's Thank You Thursdays:

Free to all first on the Thursday of every month. County residents get \$2 off every day. Children 12 and under free everyday!

Visit the [museum web site](#) for additional information.



Free on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Free admission for Milwaukee County residents on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon with proof of county residence. (Excludes major holidays).

Visit the [Domes web site](#) for additional information.



2017 Special Holidays Free Days

Family Free Days and Special Holidays

2017: 11/4 and 12/2

2018: 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day

Visit the [zoo web site](#) for additional information.